

wherein said inorganic powder is adhered to said reinforcing fiber by an organic binder; and wherein said reinforcing material hardens upon contact with water.

76. (Amended) A hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 75 wherein said reinforcing fiber is selected from the group consisting of:

- 1) rovings, ropes and braids;
- 2) short fibers obtained by cutting said rovings, ropes and/or braids into pieces of a specific length; and
- 3) unidirectional sheets, fabrics, nets, unwoven fabrics and mats.

77. (Amended) A hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 75 wherein the content of said organic binder, as a percentage of the sum of (A), (B) and ©), is 0.1 - 40% by volume.

78. (Amended) A hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 75 wherein the reinforcing fiber is carbon fiber or carbonaceous fiber.

79. (Amended) A hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 75 wherein the particle diameter of said hydraulic inorganic powder is 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  - 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

80. (Amended) A package comprising hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 75 and a moisture-proof packaging material wrapped around said hydraulic reinforcing material.

81. (Amended) A hardened reinforcing material comprising:

fiber in a hardened hydraulic inorganic matrix;

E1 wherein said hardened hydraulic inorganic matrix is adhered to said reinforcing fiber by an organic binder.

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82. (Amended) A hydraulic reinforcing material as claimed in claim 81 wherein the content of said organic binder, as a percentage of the sum of said fiber, said hydraulic inorganic matrix and said organic binder is 0.1 - 40% by volume.

E2 83. (Amended) A reinforcing material as claimed in claim 81 wherein the fiber is carbon fiber or carbonaceous fiber.

84. (Amended) A reinforcing material as claimed in claim 81 wherein said fiber is selected from the group consisting of strands, rovings, ropes, braids, unidirectional sheets, fabrics, nets, and unwoven fabrics and mats.

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E3 85. (Amended) A hardened reinforcing material comprising at least [components] (A) reinforcing fiber, (B) organic binder and (C) a hardened inorganic hydraulic matrix, with (A) and (C) bound together through (B), the hardened reinforcing material being a member selected from the group consisting of strands, rovings, ropes, braids, unidirectional sheet, fabric, net, unwoven fabric and mat.

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87. (Amended) A hardened reinforcing material as claimed in claim 81 wherein the hardened reinforcing material is loose fiber.

89. (Twice Amended) A method for producing, in the absence of water, a fiber-compounded hydraulic reinforcing material comprising:

(1) dispersing a dry hydraulic inorganic powder in a solution of an organic binder in an organic solvent;

(2) applying the organic binder solution containing the dispersed hydraulic inorganic powder to reinforcing fiber to bind the hydraulic inorganic powder to the surface of the reinforcing fiber and/or to impregnate the reinforcing fiber;

(3) drying the reinforcing fiber having a coating of the hydraulic inorganic powder;

(4) obtaining, as a product, a dry fiber-compounded hydraulic reinforcing material wherein the hydraulic inorganic powder is unhardened and is bound to the reinforcing fiber through the organic binder, said product remaining flexible until contact with water and, upon contact with water, hardening by a hydration reaction.

#### REMARKS

A petition for a one month extension of time has today been filed as a separate paper and a copy is attached hereto.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments fully address the points raised by the